

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PPT-01 SCA-01 PER-01 OPR-02 A-01

EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

SAM-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /082 W
----- 070929

R 011129Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4366

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2197

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, CPAS, PFOR, US, CH

SUBJECT: PRIVATE TRAVEL TO PRC: APPARENT LIBERALIZATION

REF: 73 STATE A-4085, 75 STATE A-45

1. PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES (PIA) REPORTED FEBRUARY 27, 1976, SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM PAST CHINESE PRACTICE OF RESTRICTING AMCIT TOURIST TRAVEL (AT LEAST THAT ORIGINATING FROM PAKISTAN) TO CHINA.

2. PIA ANNOUNCED PLAN TO CONDUCT SMALL GUIDED GROUP TOURS OF CHINA; TWO YEARS AGO WHEN THEY TRIED A SIMILAR SCHEME THEY WERE BADLY EMBARRASSED BY THE CHINESE DENIAL OF VISAS TO AMERICANS INCLUDED IN ROSTER. THIS TIME THEIR DISTRICT SALES MANAGER REPORTS THAT PIS HAS OBTAINED A WRITTEN PROMISE FROM CHINESE THAT AMERICANS- -INCLUDING DIPLOMATS- -MAY BE INCLUDED IN PIA TOURS.

3. FOR INFO OF ADDRESSEES: ONE TOUR SCHEDULED EACH FOR APRIL, JUNE, AND AUGUST; TWENTY PEOPLE PER TOUR. COST ESTIMATED \$750
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FOR TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING; FIVE CITIES COVERED IN NINE DAYS.

POSTS ARE REMINDED THAT STATE'S ADVANCE CLEARANCE FOR CHINA TRAVEL STILL NECESSARY (73 REPAIR) ALTHOUGH USG EMPLOYEES MANY NOW TRAVEL ON DIP AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS (75 REPAIR).

4. COMMENT: TIME WILL TELL HOW LIBERALLY CHINESE WILL IN FACT VISA AMERICANS RESIDENT IN PAKISTAN FOR TOURIST TRAVEL TO PRC. BYROADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOURISM, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ISLAMA02197
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760077-0684
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603108/aaaadrqe.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE A-4085, 76 STATE A-45
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIVATE TRAVEL TO PRC: APPARENT LIBERALIZATION
TAGS: CGEN, CPAS, PFOR, US, CH, PIA
To: STATE PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006